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From: "Richard M. Burian; Department Head" <RMBURIAN%VTVM2.BITNET@VTVM1.CC.V
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Date: 11 Jul 89 12:28:49 EDT (Tue)
To: Joshua Lederberg <JSL@CASPl.rockefeller.edu>
Subject: Miscellaneous

I feel badly about being out of touch. My fault. I discovered your kind note about the G-B-Z paper (asking for a copy) at the bottom of a "Do Soon" pile yesterday. That reprint, plus a couple of other items will go out (with my apologies) in today's or tomorrow's mail. One of them will surprise you mildly -- some very hasty notes taken on a laptop at the Monod Archive on the Lederberg-Monod correspondence. You won't learn anything from it, but I thought you might find the idea (if not the notes) amusing. I am fairly hard at work at untangling what I can about the career and contributions of Ephrussi for at least one, but probably two articles. A draft of one is due in Sept. for a volume that Scott Gilbert is doing on history of developmental biology and related topics. If you have any suggestions of bases I should touch or if you have any correspondence or materials on hand that would help me to make sense of the way he was skew to molecular biology while yet posing very central questions and forcing out the issues that had to be faced re nucleo-cytoplasmic relations, I'd be most grateful. (There, I've revealed the fundamental biases that I have developed as to how to classify his work. The complexities of his interpersonal relationships is another story.) I did spend a couple of hours with Mary Weiss and have a fairly good understanding of her perspective (that of someone who was with him late in his career) on his work.

Let me know what you are up to that bears on this sort of thing. And let me repeat my interest in getting a book out of you for the Oxford Monograph Series in History and Philosophy of Biology. Or rather, to put the point more strongly -- getting a book for the series out of you has the status of a major target.

Incidentally, you will soon receive notice (i.e., within the month) that we have taken steps to form an International Society for the History Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. (No one figured out how to get around the cumbersome name.) In fact, a good deal of the action in our curious interdisciplinary corner will take place in connection with this group. Would you be interested in (co?)organizing a session for the meeting of summer, 1991 -- probably in June, probably in Chicago? The biggest need at the moment is to encourage more active participation by biologists. Your participation would surely help us out on that score -- besides which there are a number of issues that you could help us raise that it would be great fun to tackle in such an arena.

Sorrry to have been such a slovenly correspondent. I've taken all the usual resolutions -- but when I get my new secretary I expect a number of the tangles that have put me behind schedule on various fronts to be taken care of in fairly short order, so perhaps I can live up to my promises to myself. Best regards! Dick